

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) A needle crystal comprising a C₆₀ platinum derivative, which is single crystalline.

11. (Currently amended) A needle crystal comprising a C₆₀ platinum derivative and C₆₀ fullerene molecules, which is single crystalline.

12. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The needle crystal as claimed in Claim 10 or 11, having a hollow structural portion.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The needle crystal as claimed in Claim 12, being in a closed form or holed form having an end that is closed or open.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The needle crystal as claimed in Claim 10 or 11, wherein the C₆₀ platinum derivative is (η^2 -C₆₀)Pt(PPh₃)₂.

17. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a needle crystal comprising a C₆₀ platinum derivative that is single crystalline, which comprises (1) a step in which a solution containing a first solvent dissolving the C₆₀ platinum derivative therein is combined with an alcohol as a second solvent; (2) a step in which a liquid-liquid interface is formed between the ~~above~~ solution and the ~~above~~second solvent; and (3) a step in which a carbon fine wire is precipitated on the ~~above~~ liquid-liquid interface.

18. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a needle crystal comprising a C₆₀ platinum derivative and C₆₀ fullerene molecules that is single crystalline by a liquid-liquid interfacial precipitation method, which comprises (1) a step in which a solution containing a first solvent dissolving the C₆₀ platinum derivative and the C₆₀ fullerene ~~molecule~~molecules therein is combined with an alcohol as a second solvent; (2) a step in which a liquid-liquid interface is formed between the ~~above~~ solution and the ~~above~~ second solvent; and (3) a step in which a carbon fine wire is precipitated on the ~~above~~-liquid-liquid interface.

19. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method for preparing a needle crystal as claimed in Claim 17 or 18, wherein the C₆₀ platinum derivative is (η^2 -C₆₀)Pt(PPh₃)₂.

20. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method for preparing a needle crystal as claimed in ~~any one of Claims~~Claim 17 or 18, wherein the first solvent is toluene.

21. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method for preparing a needle crystal as claimed in Claim 17 or 18, wherein the second solvent is isopropyl alcohol.

22. (New) A C₆₀ fullerene needle comprising an amorphous structure, wherein nanometer-sized particles of platinum are dispersed thereon.

23. (New) The C₆₀ fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 22, having a hollow structural portion.

24. (New) The C₆₀ fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 22, having an end that is closed or open.

25. (New) A method for preparing a C₆₀ fullerene needle comprising an amorphous structure, wherein nanometer-sized particles of platinum are dispersed thereon, which comprises:

- (1) a step in which a solution containing a first solvent dissolving the C₆₀ platinum derivative therein is combined with an alcohol as a second solvent;
- (2) a step in which a liquid-liquid interface is formed between the solution and the second solvent; and
- (3) a step in which a carbon fine wire is precipitated on the liquid-liquid interface; and
- (4) a step in which a vacuum thermal treatment at 600°C or higher or an irradiation of an electron beam with high energy of 100 keV or higher is carried out for the carbon fine wire.

26. (New) The method for preparing a C₆₀ fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the C₆₀ platinum derivative is (η^2 -C₆₀)Pt(PPh₃)₂.

27. (New) The method for preparing a C₆₀ fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the first solvent is toluene.

28. (New) The method for preparing a C₆₀ fullerene needle as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the second solvent is isopropyl alcohol.